



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

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## **Patrick Administration Installs Safety Improvements at Several DCR Skating Rinks**

*Look-Up Line to protect players from head and spine injuries at eight DCR Rinks*

DORCHESTER—Tuesday, October 21, 2014— Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Jack Murray yesterday joined state and local officials at the Devine Rink in Dorchester to announce the installation of the Look-Up Line, a safety measure designed to reduce head and spinal injuries.

“DCR is committed to public safety at our ice skating facilities,” said Commissioner Jack Murray. “More users and groups are playing hockey at DCR rinks each season. Improving safety and awareness by implementing this simple, low cost safety measure will help reduce and prevent life changing injuries, making the game safer.”

The Look-Up Line is a 40-inch long orange colored line, which runs along the boards on the outer edge of an ice skating rink. It does not affect the speed, intensity or quality of the hockey game, and does not require new playing rules directed at the player. It is designed to:

- Warn players to keep their heads up to prevent head and neck injuries.
- Warn players to be careful not to body check (contact) opposing players from behind.
- Allow players time to make proper bodily adjustments before hitting the boards.
- Remind on ice coaches and officials to continue to warn players about safety in hockey.

The Look-Up Line has been installed at more than 220 rinks across 27 different states. The Thomas Smith Foundation, founded by a former hockey player who was seriously injured while crashing into the boards, has been advocating for the Look-Up Line to be installed at rinks across the nation. In the spring of 2014, Smith met with DCR officials earlier to discuss the potential implementation of Look-Up lines at DCR facilities. The agency has installed Look-Up Lines at eight DCR operated rinks throughout the metro Boston area.

"Thank you to Commissioner Jack Murray and the Massachusetts DCR for implementing 'The Look-Up Line' at skating rinks throughout Boston. The First Suffolk District is home to a lot of hockey players of all ages, especially here in Dorchester and in South Boston," said Senator Linda Dorcea Fory. "The Look-Up Line' will immediately help increase player safety and give coaches a tool to help teach young players proper technique that will pay dividends for years to come," continued Senator Fory. "Finally, I want to thank Thomas Smith and his foundation for their amazing work to increase safety in the sport of hockey. Thomas' passion and strength are building a lasting legacy in the game he loves."

"Yesterday shows the continued commitment by Governor Patrick and DCR's Commissioner Murray to Dorchester and our recreational facilities," said Representative Dan Hunt. "From our beautiful parks to

today’s celebration of over \$1 million of improvements, DCR has shown how to utilize innovative management and a new retained revenue model. I thank Representative Collins for his leadership on installing the Look-Up Line and ensuring the safety of our young children.”

"After meeting Tom Smith and hearing about his idea for the Look-Up Line, I saw a simple way to make our state rinks safer for kids. Parents should know that the DCR is committed to providing the safest facilities possible for their kids to learn and enjoy the sports of ice skating and hockey,” said Representative Nick Collins. “Commissioner Murray's decision to support the installation of Look-Up Lines in our state rinks is another example of DCR working collaboratively with its patrons to find cost-effective ways to deliver safer, higher quality of service that the public deserves.”

“Working with the DCR has been an absolute pleasure. Commissioner Jack Murray, State Representative Nick Collins and the DCR’s Antonio Barletta have been leaders by example by installing the Look-Up Line in the 8 DCR operated rinks throughout metro-Boston,” said Look-Up Line Founder, Thomas E. Smith. “This has helped pave the way for others to do the same and I am forever grateful for the states commitment to ensure safety for all on ice participants.”

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Jack Murray, the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)<<http://www.mass.gov/dcr>>. Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us)<<mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us>>.

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